

Table 12-1 Ratio* of median annual earnings of all male to all female wage and salary workers ages 25–34, by educational attainment: 1970–97

Year	Grades 9–11	High school completer	Some college	Bachelor's degree or higher
1970	3.40	2.42	2.21	1.64
1971	3.09	2.36	2.17	1.54
1972	3.01	2.40	2.05	1.59
1973	2.93	2.47	1.93	1.61
1974	3.05	2.35	2.00	1.55
1975	2.65	2.17	1.87	1.47
1976	2.70	2.10	1.91	1.58
1977	2.56	2.08	1.74	1.60
1978	3.05	2.14	1.92	1.63
1979	2.24	2.08	1.84	1.55
1980	2.22	1.95	1.64	1.53
1981	2.23	1.86	1.61	1.56
1982	1.90	1.77	1.64	1.46
1983	1.86	1.76	1.61	1.43
1984	1.94	1.73	1.64	1.46
1985	1.86	1.66	1.67	1.47
1986	1.80	1.67	1.62	1.41
1987	1.78	1.66	1.50	1.38
1988	2.09	1.73	1.45	1.35
1989	1.95	1.75	1.49	1.32
1990	2.04	1.65	1.42	1.27
1991	1.66	1.65	1.42	1.32
1992	1.42	1.59	1.34	1.27
1993	1.82	1.60	1.37	1.26
1994	1.79	1.54	1.46	1.26
1995	1.89	1.58	1.37	1.28
1996	1.73	1.61	1.44	1.33
1997	1.77	1.57	1.44	1.24

* This ratio is most useful when compared with 1.0. For example, the ratio of 1.24 in 1997 for those whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher means that males who had attained a bachelor's degree or higher earned 24 percent more than females with the same level of educational attainment.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. See the

supplemental note to *Indicator 60* for further discussion. In 1994, the survey instrument for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 52* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.